

PERTH AMBOY, N. J.  
NEWS

E. 33,597

MAY 11 1961

## Ostrich Approach

In these troubled days, an alarming tendency is developing toward blaming news papers and news reporters for telling the nation about the serious setbacks the country has suffered in the cold war. This is the "ostrich" approach—if nobody reports it, it doesn't exist.

This tendency encompasses even President Kennedy. Under the pressure of the Cuban invasion fiasco and detailed news reports of the part the United States Central Agency played in it, Mr. Kennedy suggested some kind of self-censorship by the press.

But how can this be? If newsmen gained the information about the U.S. activities in the Cuban effort, is there any logic in assuming that the Cuban communists didn't also have that information?

Would the Cuban affair have been less of a disaster if newsmen hadn't reported what happened? The only difference is that the American people wouldn't have known about the disaster and therefore wouldn't have been in a position to insist on a change in policy.

Officials from highest positions to lesser posts would love to prevent their mistakes being exposed. But the mistakes would still exist. Pretending not to see them wouldn't make them go away.

Imperfect though it may be, a free press that publishes the news—both good and bad, without fear or favor—is a strong guardian of freedom for every American. And an effective foe of tyranny.

The above editorial also appeared in the following other newspapers:

FRAMINGHAM NEWS, MASS.	- MAY 11, 1961
WICHITA EAGLE, KANSAS	- MAY 7, 1961
PHOENIX REPUBLIC, ARIZ.	- MAY 17, 1961
LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN PRESS, LA.	- MAY 15, 1961
NORWALK HOUR, CONN.	- MAY 12, 1961